
BACK ON THE TABLE?

Is adult education on the up in Wales?

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**SPOILER
ALERT**

CURRENT LANDSCAPE

- Adult community learning
- Further education
- Higher education
- Welsh for Adults
- Third sector
- Family learning
- ESOL
- Offender education and employability

COMMUNITY LEARNING

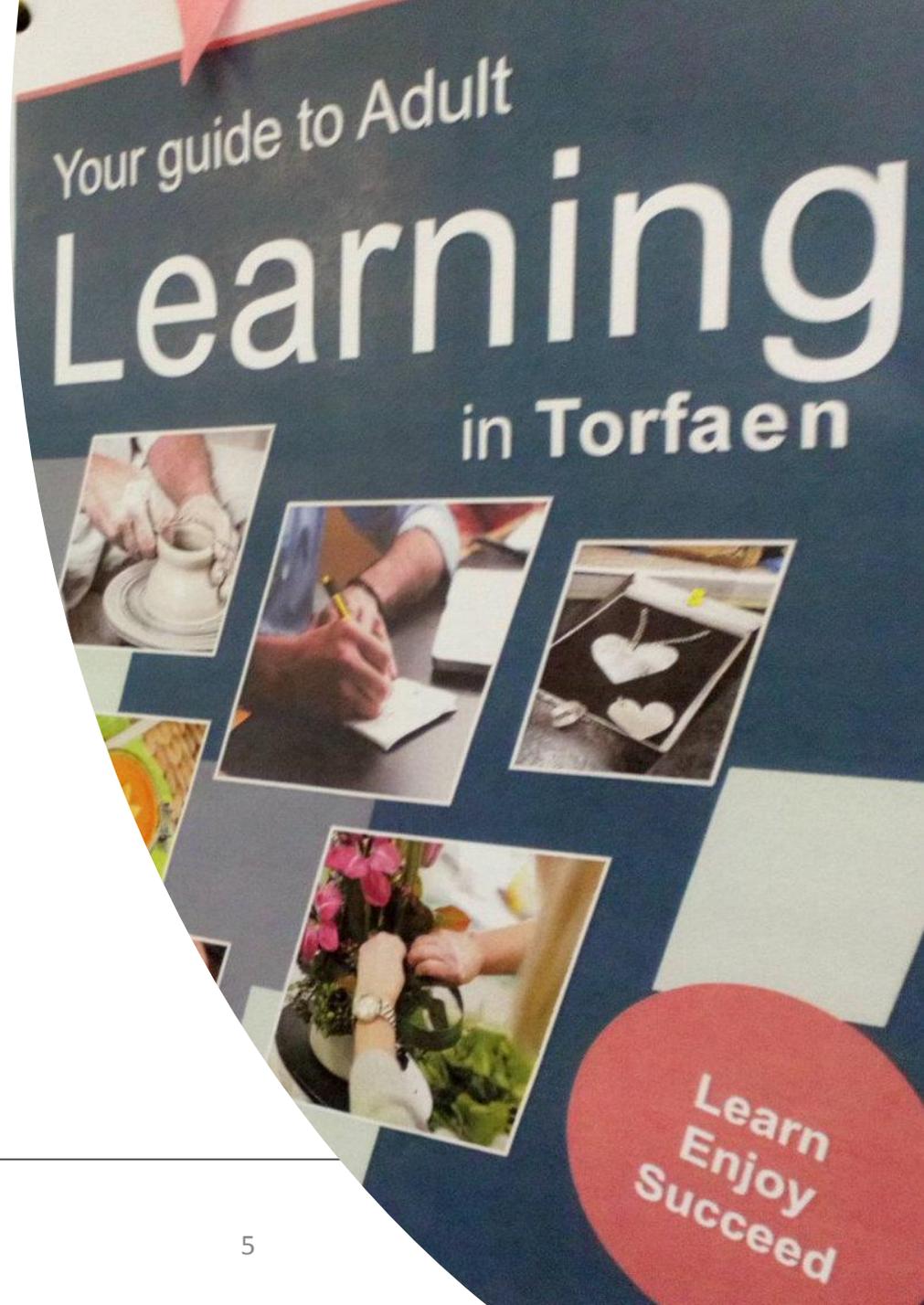
“Lifelong learning supports a number of other policies; it is not just an education issue. As well as increasing general skills levels – especially in targeting the improvement in essential skills – adult learning helps to support wider social integration policies. It is often the gateway to progression for some of our most vulnerable learners; and a vital second chance for many.”

Minister for Welsh Language and Lifelong Learning, June 2018

COMMUNITY LEARNING

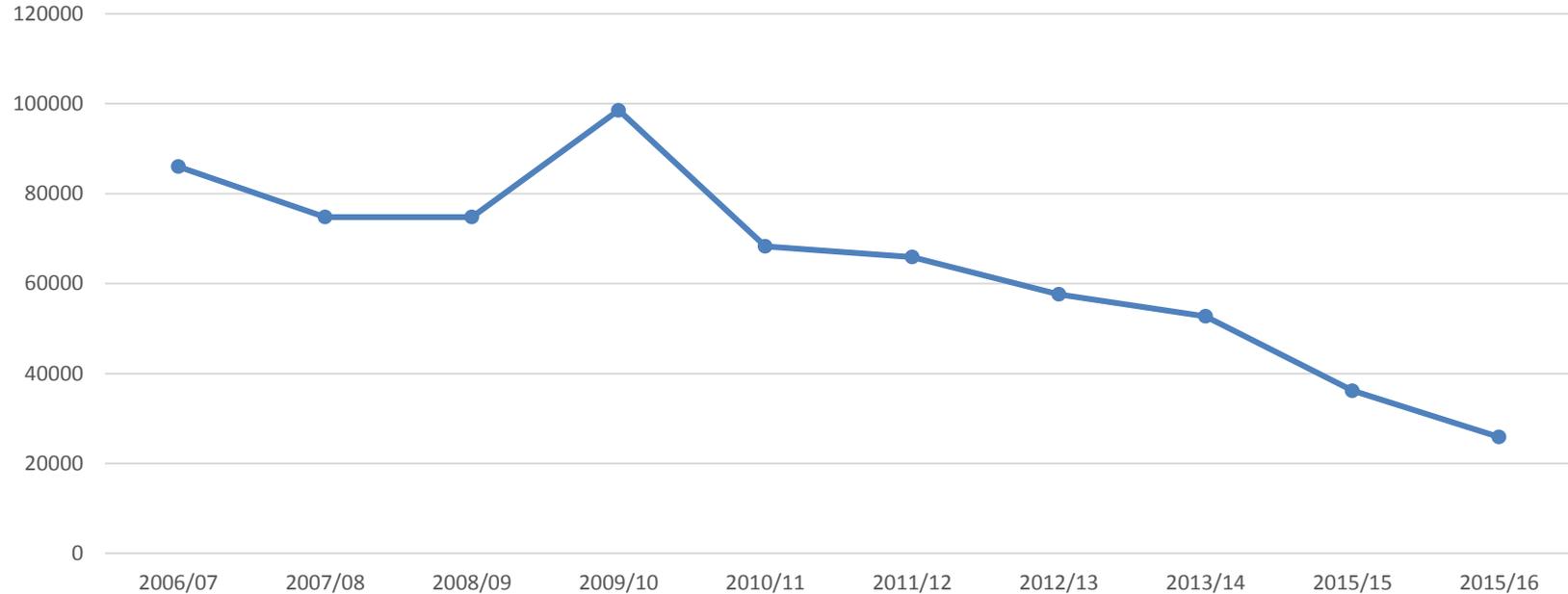
State of play:

- Mix of local authority, FE and Adult Learning Wales provision.
- Essential Skills, Welsh learners, employability, health and well-being, and cost-recovery.
- Recent consultation on review of future funding and structure: national college, regional partnerships, local authorities, FE (or a mix).



COMMUNITY LEARNING

Learner numbers (Local Authority Community Learning)



ADULT LEARNING IN FE



Funding, legislation and politics has driven focus on 16-19 learners in last decade:

- Funding: 70% cut in funding for part-time learning in FE
- Legislation: requirement on Ministers to prioritise younger learners in post-16
- Politics: post-austerity focus on avoiding another 'lost generation'.

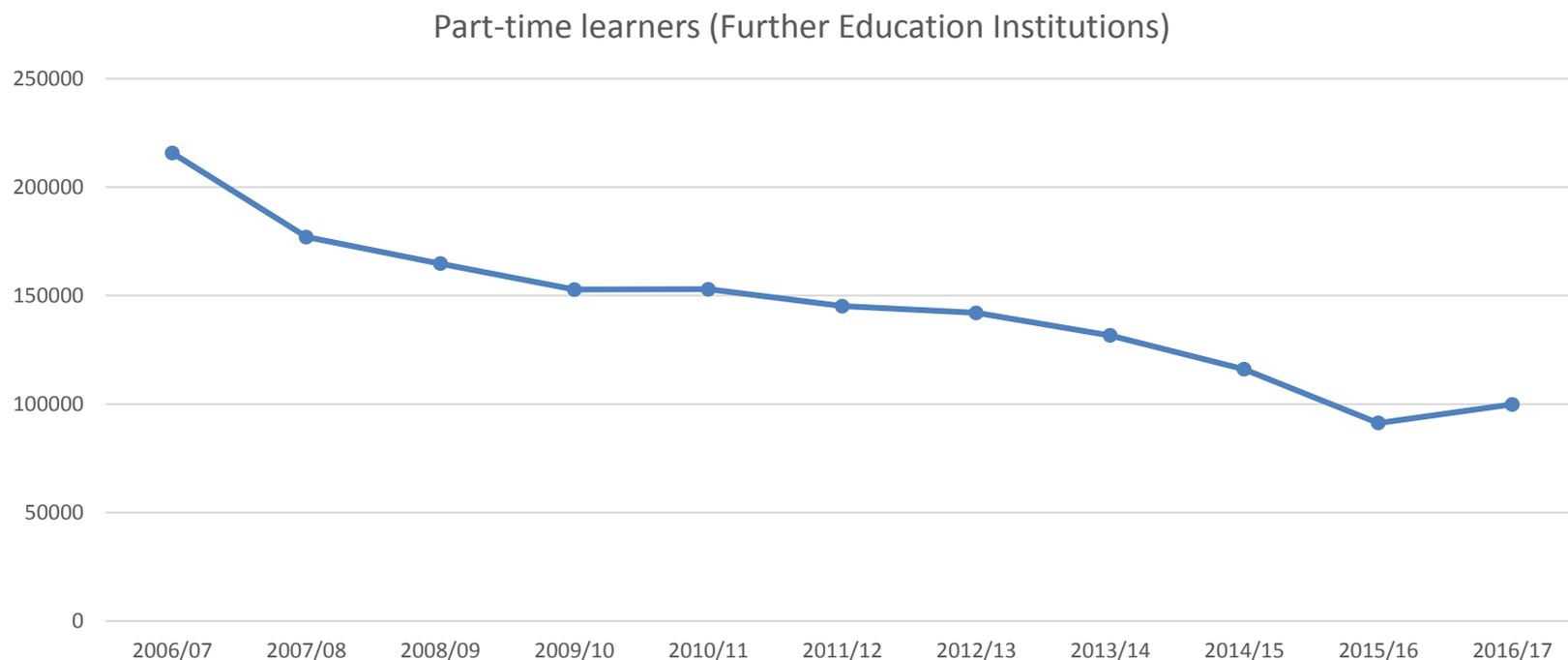
IMPACT OF CUTS IN FE

“...part-time provision for older learners has borne the brunt of budget cuts.”

Welsh Government equality impact assessment
“highlighted the likely negative impact of funding reductions on the over 18s (who mainly study part-time) and women.”

Wales Audit Office Report (Welsh Government Oversight of further education colleges' finances and delivery, Feb 2017)

PART-TIME PROVISION IN FE



COMEBACK FOR LIFELONG LEARNING?

- Changing world of work
- In-work progression
- Personal Learning Accounts
- Preventative policy approach (loneliness, health and well-being)
- Part-time learning in higher education
- New body to regulate and plan post-compulsory education



CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE

- Why invest in lifelong learning over other priorities?
- Turning the tap back on: infrastructure after a decade of decline
- Employer investment



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